Uniform licensing fee

210. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of TRAI for imposition of a uniform licensing fee for telecom service providers both cellular and WLL;

(b) whether such undue delay in enforcing a uniform licence system both for cellular and WLL operators has helped WLL operators to amass fortunes due to lack of clear-cut guidelines on limited mobility of WLL providers; and

(c) whether any of the WLL operators have been found to have violated the ground rules of limited mobility clause and if so, whether any penalty has been imposed on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. At the time of permitting Limited Mobility to Basic Service Operators on 25.1.2001, the licence fee for Cellular and Basic Service Operators was brought at par.

(c) Two of the Basic Service Operators have been providing combination of certain facilities which changed the nature of the service thereby blurring the difference between limited mobility facility and full-fledged cellular service. A notice to discontinue the features/facilities was issued to them accordingly. Further, the Government accepted the TRAI recommendations on Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) and the Basic Service Operators have migrated to UASL after paying the requisite fee including penalty.

Unified license

211. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government define and differentiate between 'unified license' as distinct from 'universal license';